(c) India's share of export of agro-based commodities is less than 1% of the world trade. Commodity-wise details of India's share in world trade are contained in Table No. 7.5 (Pages S-94 to S-96) of the Economic Survey 1992-93, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(d) Yes, Sir. The major reasons being low productivity and high price of raw materials; inadequate processing facilities; poor capital investment and high rate of interest; heavy post-harvest losses due to inadequate and unscientific post-harvest management practices; and lack of concentrated production facilities for export quality production near exit points.

(e) Government plans to promote export of agricultural commodities like super-fine varieties of rice, durum wheat, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed foods, cachew kernels, spices, oilcakes, meat and meat products, etc., in a big way. While maximising foreign exchange from the agricultural sector, the strategy of the Government is to allow the export of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise with our food security. The introduction of a unified exchange rate, liberalisation made in the EXIM Policy 1992—97, lowering of import duties on certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector, extension of the benefits available to units under the scheme of Export Oriented Units (EQUs), Export Processing Zones (EPZs), and allowing the exporters of agricultural commodities to export 50% of their produce, the Commodity Boards etc., participation in exhibitions abroad, sponsor trade delegations and arrange Buyer Seller Meets, inter-action with the importers, are all steps aimed at promoting export of agricultural commodities.

Purchase of F.C.V. Tobacco by Cigaratte Industries

1269. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cigarette industry has given any undertaking or commitment to the Tobacco Board or Commerce Ministry to purchase a set quantity of fluecured Virginia tobacco; and

(b) if so, the quantity of fluecured Virginia (F.C.V.) tobacco which cigarette manufacturers have purchased this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) At the time of crop planning domestic cigarette manufactures indicate their requirements of FCV Tobacco crop. Details of quantities indicated and actual purchases made by cigarette manufacturers are as follows:

	1992-93 AP Crop (Marketed in 1993)	1993 Karnataka Crop (ongoing auctions)
Quantity indicated (M. kgs.)	90.37	21.50
Quantity purchased (M. Kgs.)	83.085	3.63 (upto 22-11-93)

Decision on Joining Nafta

1270. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a view on whether we should joining NAFTA;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any connection between joining NAFTA and signing of the proposals under discussion in the Uruguay round of multilateral negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for India to join NAFTA.

(c) No, Sir.